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United States Patent [19][11] **Patent Number:** **5,577,828****Nadel et al.**[45] **Date of Patent:** **Nov. 26, 1996**[54] **LIGHT ILLUMINATING ASSEMBLIES FOR WEARING APPAREL**[76] Inventors: **Craig P. Nadel**, 201 Wingate Rd., Parsippany, N.J. 07054; **Dietmar Nagel**, 11 South Rd., Chester, N.J. 07930[21] Appl. No.: **331,726**[22] Filed: **Oct. 31, 1994**[51] Int. Cl.⁶ **F21L 15/08**[52] U.S. Cl. **362/103; 362/31; 362/276; 362/802; 362/806; 36/137**[58] Field of Search **36/137; 362/26, 362/31, 103, 105, 106, 108, 330, 806, 276, 802, 800**[56] **References Cited****U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS**

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An article of wearing apparel defines a curved mounting surface when worn and includes a decorative, illuminatable assembly affixed over the mounting surface. The decorative assembly includes a soft, flexible panel member having an upper surface, a lower surface, and a peripheral edge surface. The flexible panel member is sufficiently flexible to conform to the curvature of the mounting surface by hand pressure alone and is substantially comprised of a transparent or a translucent material. The flexible panel member defines a cavity in communication with the peripheral edge surface, which cavity is dimensioned and arranged to receive at least one light emitting element. The lower surface of the panel member causes a decorative pattern of refractive grooves dimensioned and arranged to reflect light propagating through the panel member in a plane disposed between its upper and lower surfaces.

16 Claims, 2 Drawing Sheets